ON THE GRAND

On the Grand is a quarterly publication distrubuted by the Grand River Conservation Authority to member municipalities and other interested persons and groups. It contains capsule news items concerning Conservation Authority programs and projects throughout the valley. Comments and suggestions will be welcome.

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New General Manager

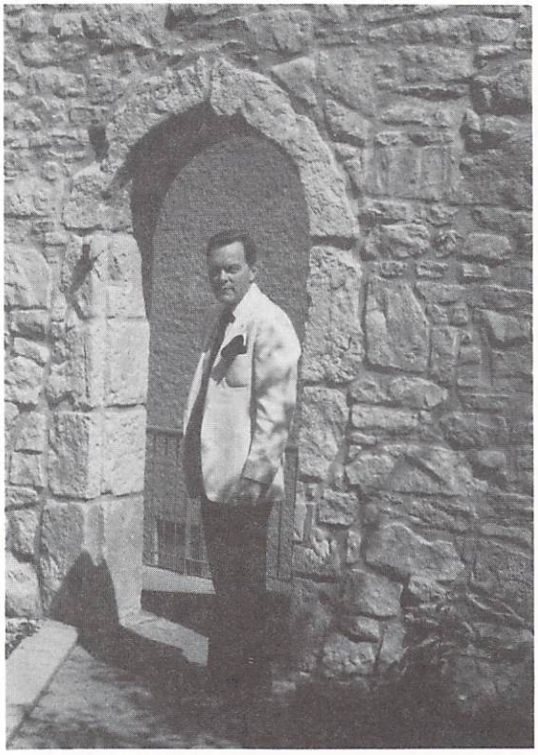
Allan Holmes, P.Eng., who is presently the County Engineer for the County of Wellington, will join the GRCA on December 1, 1991 as its new General Manager. Mr. Holmes will work closely with present General Manager Mac Coutts until Mr. Coutts retires in March 1992.

Mr. Holmes was born in Mono Township (County of Dufferin), Ontario and is a graduate of the University of Toronto. For the past 26 years he has worked as County Engineer, administering the Guelph suburban and Wellington County road systems. Over the years Allan has established an outstanding reputation as a senior operations manager.

Allan is particularly proud of the leading role he played in preserving and restoring the Wellington County Administration Building. This historic structure is one of the more impressive landmarks in the City of Guelph.

Mr. Holmes is a member and past president of both the Municipal Engineers Association, and the Ontario Good Roads Association. Allan knows many GRCA staff members as a result of working closely with the Conservation Authority on major projects such as the Elora Gorge bridge, and the Everton Dam and bridge.

Allan, his wife Shirley Ann, and their son and daughter live in Guelph. He looks forward to the exciting challenges offered by the opportunity at the GRCA.



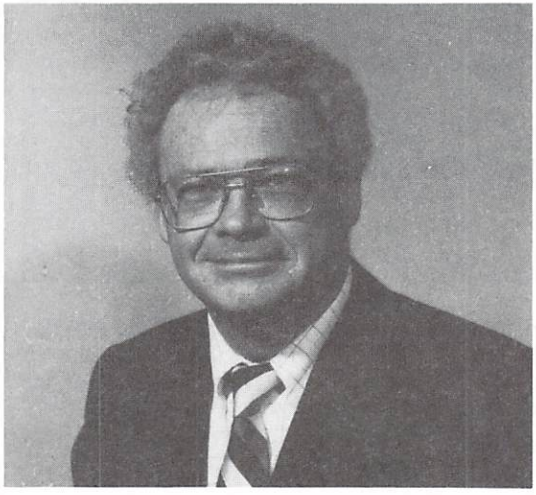
New General Manager - *Newly appointed GRCA General Manager Allan Holmes is framed by an arch at the Wellington County Administration Office which he helped to preserve.*

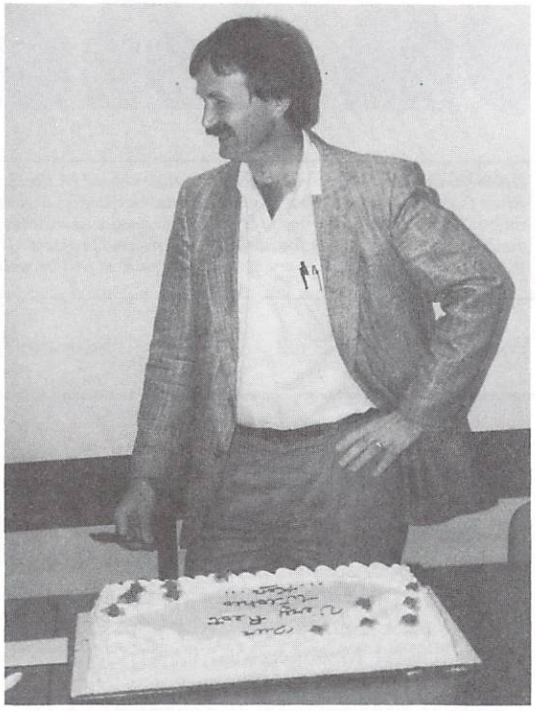
New Member Appointed

Gerry Thompson, Chief Administrative Officer of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, has replaced Robert F. Richardson as a General Member for the Region. Mr. Thompson is a Professional Engineer and a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners. He was heavily involved in the studies that followed the contamination of groundwater in Elmira. Mr. Thompson is also helping to develop strategic directions for the protection of ground and surface water in the Region of Waterloo.

George Stormont Retires

The GRCA's Director of Communications, George Stormont, has retired after 21 years with the Conservation Authority. Numerous Communications programs came to fruition during George's career. The four Nature Centres, the Grand Van, and the extensive information programs of the GRCA are all the result of his efforts to make the public more aware of the nature and value of the Conservation Authority's work. Although George has opted for early retirement, he remains actively involved in our local conservation programs by serving as a Director of the Grand Valley Conservation Foundation.





Best Wishes - *Ken Thomson prepares to share a farewell cake presented to him by staff of the Conservation Authority.*

Ken Thomson Accepts New Appointment

Dr. Kenneth W. Thomson, who has been the GRCA's Assistant General Manager since 1988, will be leaving the Conservation Authority in September. Ken has accepted a senior position with the Mississauga office of Golder Associates Ltd. Golder specializes in geotechnical engineering and hydrogeology.

***15 Million** - GRCA Vice-Chairman Ron Eddy, retired Assistant General Manager Ilmar Kao, former Chairman Jim Bauer, Chairman Archie MacRobbie, and an apparently shy Doug Gilmour pitch in to plant the GRCA's symbolic 15 millionth tree.*

Quarter Century Club

GRCA 25th Anniversary Celebrations took place as part of the General Meeting held on June 12 at the Administration Centre in Cambridge. Retired Deputy Treasurer and Office Manager Doug Gilmour received a GRCA Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his 24 years of service to the Conservation Authority.

James Bauer received a GRCA Honour Roll Citation in tribute to his leadership and vision as Chairman of the Conservation Authority during its first quarter century. The Citation, which summarizes some of the highlights of Mr. Bauer's prestigious career, is presently on view in the lobby of the GRCA Administration Centre.

On the same day, GRCA staff and members took part in the commemorative planting of the 15 millionth tree that the Authority has planted since its amalgamation in 1966. This total does not include the 10 million trees planted by the Grand River Conservation Commission prior to its amalgamation with the Grand Valley Conservation Authority in 1966.

Only in Canada, Eh? - In June a bus load of travel consultants from the United Kingdom toured the Grand River watershed. The two week tour of Ontario was sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. The group is shown here at the Elora Gorge, one of the most scenic recreation areas in the Province.

International Tours

Two tour groups from outside Canada recently visited Conservation Authority projects in order to learn more about the GRCA. On May 30, six officials from Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) toured GRCA water management projects as part of a three week Canadian tour, sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The Sri Lankans are senior irrigation department officials, and were impressed during the morning part of the tour by Guelph Lake Superintendent Jim Muir's description of the operation of the Guelph Dam. Later, Chairman Archie MacRobbie and General Manager Mac Coutts welcomed the delegation to the GRCA Administration Centre where they had lunch and shared resource management information with GRCA water management staff.

In the afternoon, the delegation visited the Vellenga family farm south of St. George. Water Quality Advisor Tracey Ryan explained the benefits of Agriculture Canada's Permanent Cover program to water quality in the tributary of Whiteman's Creek that flows through the Vellenga Farm.

Nature Centre Programs

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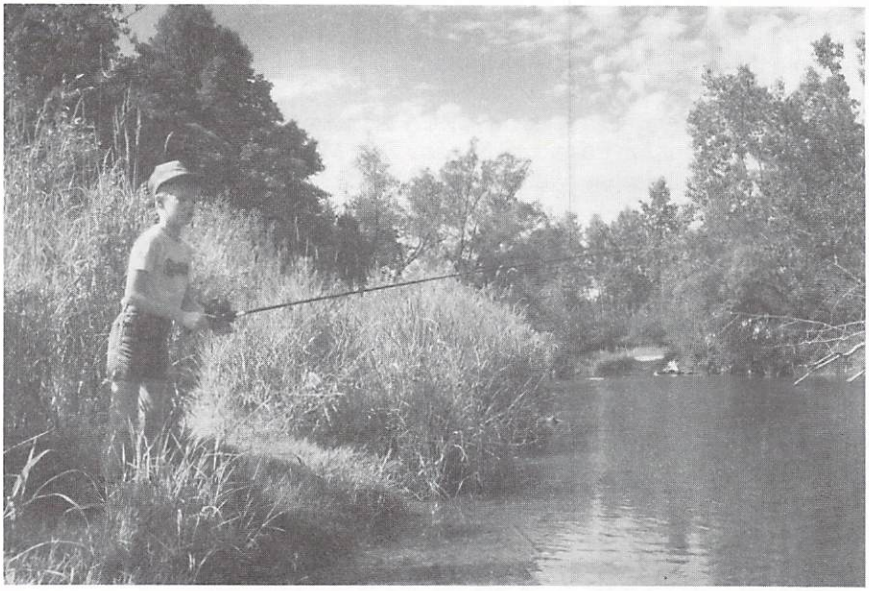


Fish Story - A young angler drops a line in Whiteman Creek at the Apps' Mill Nature Centre during one of the new Fishing Camps held this summer by the staff of the Fairlake and Guelph Lake Nature Centres.

Brant Nature Centre

The Brant Public and Separate School Boards each presently host one outdoor education class per day at the Apps' Mill Nature Centre. For some time the Brant Public School Board has required additional classroom time from the Conservation Authority. In September, the Brant Nature Centre will open as an additional program site for use by this school board at the Brant Conservation Area. In addition to the obvious benefit of the site's proximity to the city, Brant Conservation Area was chosen for the wide range of natural resources in the area suitable for study.

Laurel Creek Nature Centre

The expansion of the Laurel Creek Nature Centre started in August, with completion scheduled for January 1, 1992. The expansion incorporates a larger classroom/auditorium for use by the GRCA for its public programs. The improved facility will also provide wheelchair access as well as much needed storage and program areas for use by the Waterloo Public and Separate School Boards, who are partners at the Laurel Creek Nature Centre. During construction, the staff working at the Nature Centre and on the Laurel Creek Watershed Study remain available at the usual phone numbers.

Both of these expansions are in response to the growing demand for quality educational programs with an environmental and conservation focus.

Zebra Mussels

After muscling their way into the Laurel Creek reservoir, some Zebra mussels found themselves in hot water. In June, a few of these mussels were inadvertently dumped in the Laurel Creek reservoir by a local Waterloo family. These small, striped clam-like animals have been spreading rapidly since they were accidentally introduced from eastern Europe into the Great Lakes, probably in 1986.

Because one female can produce up to 30,000 eggs a year, the GRCA took action to stop the mussels from spreading in the Laurel Creek area. Manager of Environmental Services Pete Mason stressed that "We needed to adopt an environmentally benign method of dealing with these mussels."

Environmental Services and Ministry of Natural Resources staff used heavy plastic sheeting to cordon off the area of the reservoir where the mussels had been introduced. Staff then injected 37' to 40' C water into the cordoned area. This water was hot enough to kill the mussels. Monitoring plates have been installed in the reservoir to gauge whether the mussels left eggs behind before they were killed.

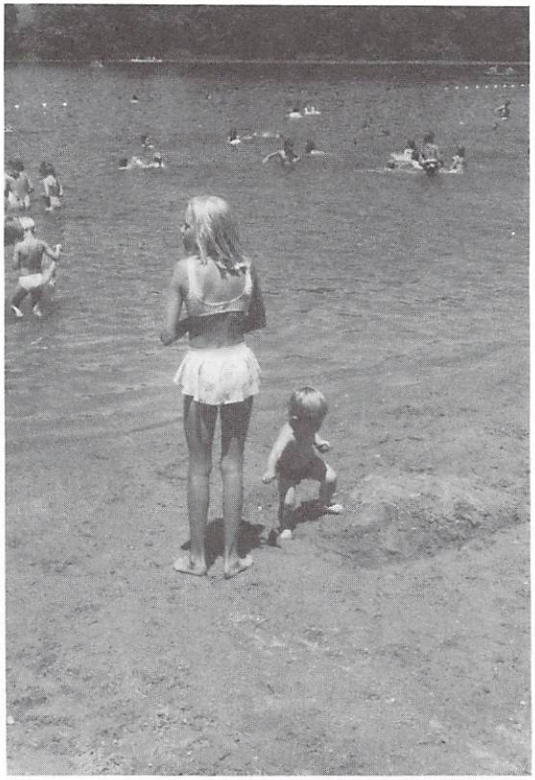
Environmental Services staff are also sampling for Zebra mussels in 16 other areas in the Grand River watershed, from Byng Island to Luther Marsh. For those interested in further information, the Ministry of Natural Resources has produced a brochure available from the Conservation Authority and the MNR on what you should know about Zebra mussels.

Environmentally Benign - Reporters from CKCO-TV interview Manager of Environmental Services Pete Mason about the GRCA and MNR's joint effort to rid the Laurel Creek reservoir of Zebra mussels.

Summer in the Conservation Areas

The summer of 1991 has been good for the Conservation Areas. Warm sunny weather and improved facilities and services have combined to provide the best attendance since the long hot summer of 1988. As of the beginning of August, total revenue for all the Conservation Areas was up 14% over last year.

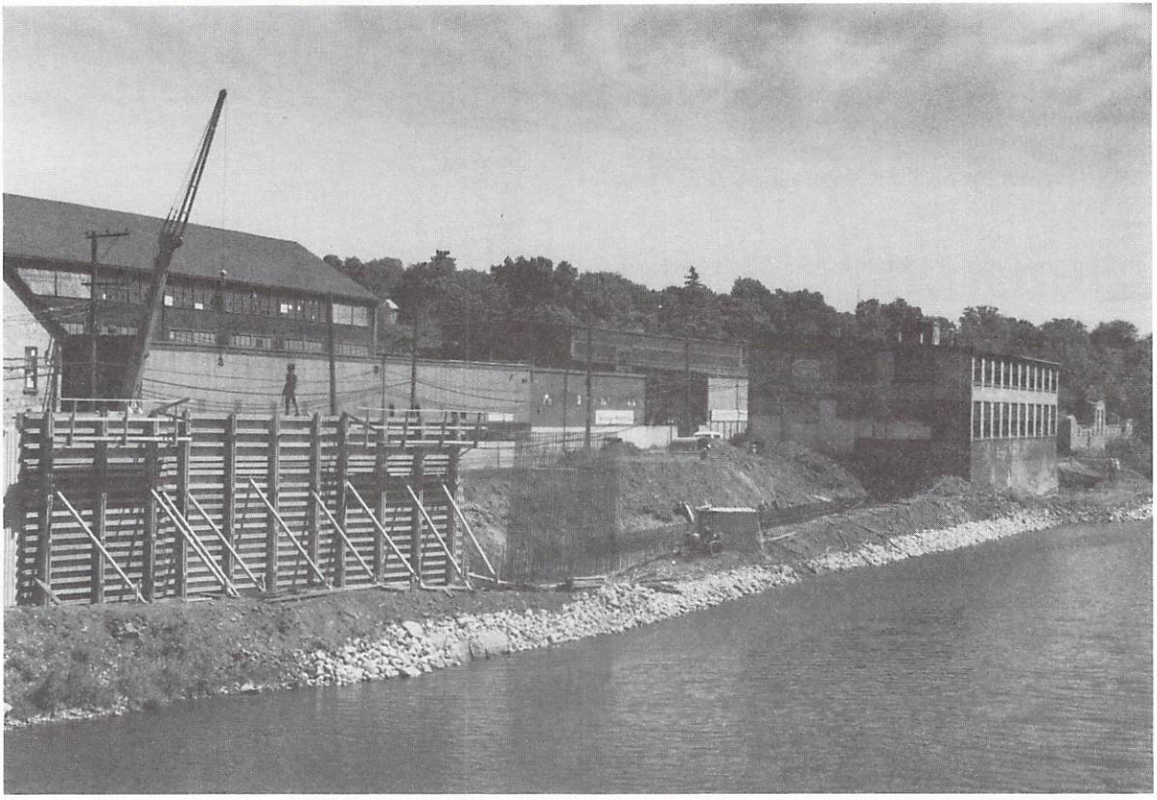
In its second year of operation, the Visitor Services Program in the Conservation Areas has proved to be very popular again. The wide variety of Visitor Services activities ranged from face painting to fishing derbies. Visitors to our areas look forward to participating in this program again next summer.



***Life's a Beach** - A young girl and her brother survey the beach at Pinehurst Lake Conservation Area. As of the first of August, visitor use at Pinehurst was up about 10% over last year.*

***Gyspy Moth** - A female Gypsy Moth deposits an egg mass containing thousands of eggs on the bark of a red oak. The red oak is located on the front lawn of the GRCA Administration Centre.*
Gypsy Moth caterpillars are destructive to forests, and infestations are being found in our area of southern Ontario.
A controlled spray program was begun this year in conjunction with Haldimand-Norfolk, for GRCA forested areas in the southern part of the watershed.

Cambridge Flood Protection Works



***Reducing the Risk** - Flood Protection work continues in Cambridge along the east side of the Grand River next to Highway #24 south of the Concession Street Bridge. Construction is taking place on the site where Leo the Lion's used to stand, one of the businesses that experienced severe flooding in May 1974. This year's work represents $1.1 million in dike and flood protection construction in Cambridge.*

1966-1991 *Conserving water and land resources for 25 years.*